Ross Stein is a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California. He received an Sc.B. Magna cum Laude and with Honors from Brown University in 1975, a Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1980, and was Observatory Post-Doctoral Fellow at Columbia University during 1981. Dr. Stein is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the Geological Society of America, was Editor of the *Journal of Geophysical Research* during 1986-1989, and chaired AGU's Board of Journal Editors of the in 2004-2006. He was a visiting professor at Institut de Physique du Globe (Paris and Strasbourg) and Ecole Normale Supérieure in 1989, 1993, 1999, and 2008.

During 1993-2003, the *Science Citation Index* reported that Stein was the second most-cited author in earthquake science. Dr. Stein received the Eugene M. Shoemaker Distinguished Achievement Award of the USGS in 2000, the Excellence in Outreach Award of the Southern California Earthquake Center in 1999, and the Outstanding Contributions and Cooperation in Geoscience Award from NOAA in 1991. He presented the Francis Birch Lecture of the AGU in 1996, the Frontiers of Geophysics Lecture of the AGU in 2001, C. Thomas Crough Memorial Lecture of Purdue University, Andrew C. Lawson Lecture of U.C. Berkeley, and the Condon Public Lecture of Oregon State University in 2004. In 2005, he was keynote speaker at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. He gave the Validus Re Distinguished Lecture in 2007. Stein has led two non-proprietary seismic hazards investigations for Swiss Re, on Istanbul (2000) and Tokyo (2006). Stein is also co-founder and one of three directors of the Global Earthquake Model, a public-private partnership initiated by the OECD.

Stein appeared the Emmy-nominated documentary, 'Killer Quake' (NOVA, 1995); the four-part 'Great Quakes' series (Discovery Channel, 1997-2001); 'Earthquake Storms' (BBC, 2003); and the IMAX film, 'Forces of Nature' (National Geographic Society, 2004), which he helped to write and animate. 'Forces' was awarded Best feature film of the 2004 Large Format Cinema Association Film Festival; Best film and Best educational film of the 2005 Giant Screen Theater Association, and Grand Prize of the 2005 La Géode International Large Format Film Festival.